

## BOONE, THE PIONEER

Historians and Orators For a Century Have Sung the Praises of the Hunter

Daniel Boone, the pioneer hunter, explorer, surveyor and land pilot, was born near Reading, Pa., November 2, 1734. Born into a frontier community, Daniel Boone's life was spent amid similar surroundings, varying only in degree. He found few equals as a rifleman; no man on the border knew Indians more thoroughly or fought them more skillfully than he; his life was filled to the brim with adventure. He was not a man of affairs, he did not understand the art of money-getting, and he lost his lands because, although a surveyor, he was careless of legal forms of entry. He fled with the advance of civilization which he had ushered in; from Pennsylvania, wandering with his parents to North Carolina in search for broader lands; thence into Kentucky because the Carolina borders were crowded; then to the Kanawha Valley, for the reason that Kentucky was being settled too fast to suit his fancy. Lastly he came to Missouri, in order, as he said, to get "elbow room."

### Not Really Founder of Kentucky.

Poets, historians and orators for a hundred years have sung the praises of Daniel Boone as the typical backwoodsman of the trans-Allegheny region. Despite popular belief, he was not really the founder of Kentucky. Other explorers and hunters had been there long before him. Nevertheless, Boone's picturesque career possesses a romantic and even pathetic interest that can never fail to charm the young and old of today. Daniel Boone was a pioneer, pathfinder, roadbuilder and statesman to whom the Mississippi Valley owes a debt of gratitude.

In 1751 his father removed to Yadkin Valley, North Carolina, which was then on the frontier, and here Boone learned his love for the open places. From this time on he was filled with wanderlust. In 1765 he visited Florida, and in 1767 he explored the wilderness of what is now Kentucky. After this his life was spent in the dark and bloody grounds of this part of the Middle West. He founded Boonesborough, Ky., long the only important foothold of the whites in this section. He was once captured by the Indians and made his escape just in time to warn the settlers of an approaching attack and to help in the desperate defense of Boonesborough. He represented the Kentucky settlers in the Virginia Legislature.

### A Touch of Romance in His Life.

It was many years before Daniel Boone realized his dream of reaching Kentucky. Such an expedition into the far-off wilderness could not be lightly undertaken, so Boone was many years making his preparations to leave the Yadkin Valley for the wilderness now known as Kentucky. One of his most important duties, he thought, was to find a companion, and Rebecca Bryan was 15 years old when Daniel first read his fate in her shining eyes. In the spring following his return from Braddock's slaughter-pen they were married, the ceremony being said by Squire Boone, farmer, weaver, blacksmith and justice of the peace.

An historian of the border, who had studied well the family traditions, thus described Daniel and Rebecca a short time after they were married: "Behold that young man exhibiting such unusual firmness and energy of character, five feet eight inches in height, with broad chest and shoulders, his form gradually tapering down to his extremities; his hair moderately black; blue eyes, arched with yellowish eyebrows; his lips thin, with a mouth peculiarly wide; a countenance fair and ruddy, with a nose a little bordering on the Roman order. Such was Daniel Boone, past 21, presenting altogether a noble, manly, prepossessing appearance."

Rebecca Bryan, whose brow had now been fanned by the breezes of seventeen summers, was like Rebecca of old, "very fair to look upon," with jet black hair and eyes, complexion rather dark, and something over the common size of her sex; her whole demeanor expressive of her childlike artlessness, pleasing in her address, and unaffectedly kind in her deportment. Never was there a more gentle, affectionate, forbearing creature than this same fair, youthful bride of the Yadkin (as Boone was sometimes called)."

### Tales of Grizzlies Attracted Him.

Boone had long looked kindly toward the broad, practically unoccupied lands of forest and plain west of the Mississippi. Adventurous hunters brought him glowing tales of buffalo, grizzly bears and beavers to be found here in this valley. In 1796, Daniel Morgan Boone, his oldest son, traveled with other adventurers in boats to St. Charles County, where they took land claims. In the spring

Kentucky he left some debts that worried him, and the first thing he did after he made some money in Missouri was to journey back to Kentucky and settle with every creditor he had. He returned to Missouri with 50 cents in his pocket."

### His Religion a Plain One.

The following letter written by Daniel Boone a short time before he died to his sister-in-law, Sarah (Day) Boone, is characteristic of the man and gives probably the only reliable account of his religious views:

"October the 19th 1816

"Dear Sister  
"With pleasure I read a Letter from your son Samuel Boone who informs me that you are yett Liveing and in good health Considering your age I wright to you to latt you know I have Not forgotten you and to inform you



Daniel Boone, the Hunter

ing his name and hunting feats upon trees. His wanderings have largely been traced by this means. He was able to interpret the signs of other hunters and explorers, and always took time to do this. "He read the signs with the same unerring accuracy he showed in bringing down the wild turkey, or in barking the squirrel on the topmost limb. Often he lay in the canebrakes and heard the signals of the Indians as they pushed their search for the white man who dared to defy them on their own ground."

Missouri's sparse population at the time Boone came here consisted largely of French. There were practically no taxes to pay; military burdens sat lightly; there were no elections; the fur and lead trade with St. Louis was the sole commerce, but there was an abundance of game. Here was a paradise for a man of Boone's temperament. "Boone liked Missouri, for the people were kind and hospitable and game was plentiful. Even after he became a very old man he never lost his fondness for the woods, and as the beavers were numerous and their fur valuable, he made considerable money by gathering and selling the peltries. When he removed from

of my Situation since the Death of your sister Rabacah I Live with flanders Calaway But am at present at my sun Nathans and in tolerable health you Can gass at my feelings by your own as we are So Near one age I Need Not write you of our situation as Samued Bradley or James grimes Can inform you of Every Surcomsyance Relating to our family and how we Live in this World and what chance we shall have in the next we know Not for my part I am as ignerant as a child all the relegan I have to Love and fear god believe in Jeses Christ don all the good to my neighbor and my self that I Can and Do as little harm as I can help and trust on gods marcy for the rest and I Believe God neve made a man of my prisepele to be Lost and I flater my self Deer sister that you are well on your way in Cristeanaty gave my Love to all your Childran and all my frends fearwell my Deer sister

"Daniel Boone."

Experiences similar to his have made misanthropes of many another man, but the temperament of this honest, silent, nature-loving man only mellowed with age, and he died full of years, in heart a simple hunter to the last, although he had also served

with credit as a magistrate, soldier and legislator. It was one of the ironies of fate that Daniel Boone, that restless spirit, should die prosaically in bed. So fate decreed, however, and it was in his little house at Charette, Mo., that Boone died September 26, 1820.

### Boone's Grave Near Montgomery City.

At his death the Constitutional Convention of Missouri went into mourning for twenty days. The state of Kentucky claimed his bones, and has erected over them a suitable monument at Frankfort, Ky. Harry C. Turner of Montgomery City declares that the bones of the old hunter still rest in the little grass-grown cemetery at Marthasville, near Montgomery City, and that the committee which sought to remove the remains to Kentucky in 1840 dug into the wrong grave.

In the minds of most American citizens there is a pathetic, romantic interest attached to Daniel Boone; his heroic adventures; his persistent efforts to escape the civilization of which he had been the forerunner; his sunny temper amid trials of the sort that make some men plotters and misanthropes; his sterling integrity; his serene old age—all of these have conspired to make for Daniel Boone a place in American history as one of the most lovable and picturesque of our popular heroes.

### NEW "BELL HOPS" IN TRAINING

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Several grinning negro youngsters stood before Barney Alisky, one of the partners in the new hotel business recently. They were practicing certain methods that were to be used in answering patrons' requests and learning, in general, something about the art of being "bell-hops." "We're going to make soldiers out of every one of these kids," said Mr. Alisky.

### Gives Tomatoes For Opening Dinner.

When B. E. Miller, a pastor, who lives near Columbia planted his tomatoes early this season he thought of the Daniel Boone Tavern's opening and determined to offer some of his choicest tomatoes for the tables the first night the kitchen of the new hotel was in operation. Last Saturday night Mr. Miller brought a big basket of perfect tomatoes to F. W. Leonard, manager of the hotel, and asked him to accept them as a mark of the minister's good wishes to the new hotel company.



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